

9 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: OFFICE OF TRAINING

ATTENTION :

FROM :

SUBJECT :

Evaluation of USSR Area Program, Summer 1952.

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1. In response to O/TR request of 28 August 1952, the following remarks concerning the value of the USSR Area Program are submitted.

2. The program as set up at present would contribute to producing a potential analyst more so than increasing the effectiveness of an intelligence officer who is presently carrying on the duties of an analyst. The material presented during the first four weeks of the course - the lectures on Russian Government, History and the Communist Party - should ~~already~~ have been known by the analyst. This is partially true of the second four weeks also, although [ ] did present many "revolutionary" ideas which I'm sure had not occurred to many, if any, of those attending the classes.

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3. Unfortunately, during the course of the program, I assumed new duties so that I must say that the course was not generally relevant to my work, other than to that extent to which it is relevant to the work of all CIA employees. The program did serve as a tying together of a great deal of information that I had spottily gathered together both during and before my employment with CIA.

4. The scope and content of the subject matter was rather general and would provide excellent for all new employees, especially while they are located in the Personnel Pool awaiting final security clearances. Following the receipt of clearances, employees who are destined for an analyst slot in the future could then be given specific training in their particular field. For example, those who are beginning their career in O/RR could be given detailed work in Russian economy (on a part-time basis) while carrying out duties of a lesser nature than analysis at O/RR.

5. The time allotted for the course probably would have been sufficient were it not for the excessive heat which caused several lectures to be cancelled. Since all students were working at their desks concurrently with attending the lectures, two hours for each session seemed adequate.

It would have

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It would have been better to have scheduled the lecture at the beginning rather than at the end of the work day.

6. The course was primarily slanted toward the elementary student of Russian, and the balance between lecture and discussion was satisfactory. There was ample opportunity for asking questions during all lecture periods.

7. Due to the fact that those attending the lectures were only part-time students, the policy of having no outside assignments was satisfactory. However, periodical review quizzes would have helped stimulate the interest of the students and also provide the lecturers with a consistent audience. At the beginning of the program, notebooks were provided, but during the transfer of the classes from R & S building to Central Building, these notebooks were lost.

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8. If I can be of any further help, I can be reached on extension  

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